

Oklahoma Regional FTC Robotics Championship this Friday & Saturday at SWOSU

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Forty high school teams from three states will compete this Friday and Saturday, February 6-7, at the 2014-15 Oklahoma Regional FTC Robotics Championship on the campus of Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

Hosting the event is the SWOSU Engineering Technology and Computer Science Departments. Teams from Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas qualified for the championship after competing in six qualifier events across the state during the past three months.

The event is held in the Wellness Center on the SWOSU campus. The competition begins at 8:45 on Saturday and concludes at 6 p.m. that night with the awards ceremony. The public is invited, and admission is free. The opening ceremony is Friday evening at 7 p.m.

Founded by inventor Dean Kamen, *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) was created to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. The *FIRST* Tech Challenge (FTC) is an intermediate robotics competition that provides high-school-aged students with a challenging, technology-rich, exciting program that inspires them to get into science, technology and engineering.

Teams of up to 10 students work alongside mentors, applying real-world math and science concepts to solve the annual challenge, according to event director Brad Fitzgerald. They compete and cooperate in team alliances at high-energy regional tournaments that reward the effectiveness of each robot, the power of collaboration, and the determination of students. Through their *FIRST* involvement, students discover the rewarding and engaging process of innovation and engineering.

The FTC Robotics Oklahoma Regional Championship will send four teams to the South Super-Regional event to be held March 13-16 in San Antonio. Seventy-two teams from Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky, South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma will compete in the Super-Regional for an invitation to the World Championship this April in St. Louis.